

# CIVIC'S 'KIND LADY' STANDS ON ITS OWN DRAMATIC MERITS

## Whole Action of Mystery Packed Into Single Hour; Slow Start Is Effective

As Pace Quickens, Reviewer Is Glad He Remained Beyond First Act—Audience Sees Play Through Mind of Its Central Character.

BY JOHN W. THOMPSON

That frayed adage, "the play's the thing," takes on a new sparkle of veracity when applied to "Kind Lady," at the Civic Theater this week. For the first time in the course of several productions, Director Fredrick Burleigh has chosen a drama that stands on its own feet, depending but little on the acting talents of its cast. The whole action takes place within an hour or so, the time it takes a wealthy old maid to tell a visiting business man about her strange imprisonment in her own home.

Frankly, we were in the mood to walk out after the first act. We shudder to think of our opinion of ourselves had we followed that desire. We would have missed one of the best little plays the Civic has presented in a month or so.

### Slowed Down for Effect

The reason we felt like walking out was that the pace of the play, the movements of the actors, the dialogue itself, has been purposefully played down, made to sound trite, meaningless, generally causing the audience to suddenly realize just what is happening—thus to achieve a startling effect.

In the prologue, Mary Herries meets a young business man, Mr. Foster, in the living room of her comfortable home. She is old and drawn, eccentric looking. Miss Herries tells him a story. Here it is:—

Christmas eve several years before, Mary had brought a ragged young man into her home to give him a cup of tea. He was good-looking, pleasant voiced. Mary tells her friend, Lucy Weston, about the young man. Henry Abbott comes to the living room to thank his benefactor, tells her of his hungry wife and baby. She sends him away. He goes, after stealing a cigarette case from the table.

### Has Paintings to Sell

In about a month, Henry Abbott comes back. This time he brings several terrible paintings which he says he has painted, to sell to Miss Herries. He insists she take one, tells her his wife and baby are waiting out in front of the house, depending on the money he is to get from the painting. He shows her his wife and baby standing in the cold. As they look out the window, they see the wife faint and fall to the street.

She is carried into the house. A doctor is summoned. (Henry goes after him.) Doctor orders rest and quiet and quiet and quiet. The wife, Ada, and baby, are put to bed at the Herries home.

Up to this point, we had wondered just where the play was trying to go, what it possibly could mean. Then, at the start of the second act, we find out.

Mary Herries is still playing hostess to the Abbotts, with Ada no better. Henry is walking around with an air of ownership. Rose, the maid, is the only servant left. And she is leaving when this scene starts.

### Advices Dismissal

Lucy Weston drops in again, tries to get Mary to go on a trip with her. Mary refuses. Mary tells her of her problem—the Abbotts. Lucy advises throwing them out.

Then Rose, on her way out, tells Mary what she has feared about the Abbotts. Ada isn't sick at all, she says. And the baby, is deaf and dumb, and a much older one than they have said.

Then into the Herries home walk sinister-looking Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, two slow-witted individuals, and their daughter, Aggie, a half-wit. Henry welcomes them.

When they come downstairs, he introduces them to Miss Herries. By this time she is about fed up with having strange people brought into her home by the domineering Henry. So she tells them to get out.

Slowly the group of crooks closes in on the helpless Miss Herries, and she realizes what is up. She tries to run out, but finds that the doctor, also an accomplice of Henry's, is blocking the way. She faints.

### Held Prisoner

Later we see Mary, a prisoner in body and almost in mind of the criminals in her house. She is asked to sign papers giving over the guardianship of her estate to Henry. She refuses. Thinking they have her completely cowed, the group allows her to talk to a French art dealer whom they have invited to look over some of Mary's expensive paintings. She slips a note to the art dealer.

### WHERE, WHAT, WHEN

**APOLLO**  
"Professional Soldier" with Victor McLaglen and Freddie Bartholomew. 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:30.

**CIRCLE**  
"The Magnificent Obsession" (carried over from Indiana for second week) with Irene Dunne and Robert Taylor. At 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15 and 9:55.

**CIVIC**  
"Kind Lady" with Clifford Courtney, Horace Hill III, Marcella Parry and Cecilia Vonnegut. At 8:30.

**INDIANA**  
Earl Carroll's "Vanities" on stage at 12:40, 3:30, 6:35 and 9:20. On screen, "Her Master's Voice" with Edward Everett Horton. At 11:20, 2:10, 7:50 and 10:35.

**LOEWS**  
"April Blossoms" world premiere, with Richard Tauber, Jane Baxter. At 11:15, 1:35, 4:35, 7:15 and 10:15. Also, "The Lone Wolf Returns" with Melvyn Douglas, Gail Patrick and Raymond Walburn. At 12:45, 2:55, 6:07 and 8:48.

**LYRIC**  
Major Bowes' "Amateurs" on stage at 1:04, 3:50, 6:32 and 9:37. On screen, "Freshman Love" with Frank McHugh and Patricia Ellis. At 11:40, 2:34, 5:28, 8:15 and 10:37.

**OHIO**  
Claudette Colbert in "She Married Her Boss" at 10:30, 1:08, 4:10, 7:04 and 9:50. Also, "The Sign of the Cross" at 11:57, 2:39, 5:53 and 8:55.

hoping he will take it with him, read it when outside, and bring her help.

But before the art dealer goes, he hands Henry the note.

But Mary stands firmly in the middle of her living room and tells Henry that he can not win forever. The play flashes back to where it left off in the prologue, with Mary talking to Foster in her living room. For once the Edwards' and Aggie had slipped up, left Miss Herries alone. She gives Mr. Foster a note.

Henry Abbott comes home, is almost beside himself when he discovers Mary has been alone with this man from the outside world. Before he goes, Henry asks him in, Mary gave him a note. Foster runs out. There is the sound of sirens and police whistles after a few minutes. Mary, a new sparkle in her old eyes, laughs at the cringing group of crooks in her room, goes to answer the door.

### Action Centralized

Like Dostevski in "Crime and Punishment," Edward Chodorov has written in "Kind Lady," a "trend of consciousness" story, letting the audience view the action through the mind of the central character.

In the cast, Horace Hill is outstanding, as the smooth Henry Abbott; Marcella Parry makes a convincing Mary Herries, especially after the first act, with only her emotional scenes below par. Jane Dygert as Rose, the maid, is at ease and shows promise of becoming one of the Civic's most profitable discoveries. Edna Skelton, likewise, shows talent and nice stage presence in the part of Phyllis, Mary's niece.

Dean Rice comes close to top-notch honors in his part of Peter Santard; Garrett Olds does his best at the Civic, in the role of Edwards, as does also Katherine Dalsheimer as Mrs. Edwards. Rosemary White makes a good Aggie and Lillian White plays the hysterical Ada well.

The set for "Kind Lady" reminds us that we are to show too little gratitude to Mr. Burleigh. This set, designed by him, is a well-nigh perfect frame for the strange goings on throughout the play.

The direction, the staging of "Kind Lady" are exceptional, even at the Civic. We can promise that you won't forget this play.

Fred Stone Remembered  
Fred Stone, stage associate of the late Will Rogers, received the first book off the press of David Randolph Milsten's "In Appreciation of Will Rogers."

## Recognize Them? They're in Cast of 'Midsummer Night's Dream'



## Soloist Given Concert Role

Mr. La Shelle to Appear With Maennerchor.

To Edward La Shelle, bass-baritone, goes the honor of being the first local musician chosen as assisting artist at an Indianapolis Maennerchor concert. He is to be featured soloist on the society's next program, Feb. 3.

Mr. La Shelle is a Maennerchor member and is well-known as a voice teacher, conductor and soloist. He is a graduate of the Chicago Musical College, and has done graduate study with such teachers as Witherspoon and Hagemann of the Metropolitan Opera Co., Travison of the Chicago Civic Opera and William F. Brady of New York.

His musical instruction has been supplemented by European travel and several summers study and coaching at Ravinia Park, scene of Chicago's summer opera season.

Continuing last month's innovation in program building, the choral portion of the concert again is to contain a group of English songs, as well as the customary German lieder.

## Newton Picks English Songs

Workers of Old Composers to Feature Recital.

Having devoted the first three of his current series of seven recitals to a survey of German song literature, George Newton, bass, turns to the works of Old English composers in a program to be presented tomorrow night at 8:15 in his studio, 319 N. Pennsylvania-st.

The evening is to be given over to songs of Henry Purcell (1659-1695) and John Dowland (1563-1626). Ramona Wilson is to be accompanist.

Following is the complete program:

Henry Purcell  
Next Winter Comes Bloviy  
Arise, ye Subterranean Winds.  
At Empty From Love's Sickness to Fly.  
When I Am Laid to Earth,  
Nymphs and Shepherds,  
I'll Sail Upon the Dog-Star,  
Full Pathos Fye,  
What Shall I Do?  
Hence With Your Trifling Ditties.

John Dowland  
If My Complaints Could Passion More,  
Come Again, Sweet Love,  
I Must Complain,  
Come Again, Sweet Love,  
Flow, My Tears,  
Awake, Sweet Love,  
Pie on This Feigning,  
Weep You No More,  
Away With These Self-Loving Lads.

**LOEWS**  
World Premiere  
"April Blossoms"  
Richard Tauber  
"LONE WOLF RETURNS"  
Melvyn Douglas  
STARRING FRIDAY  
Musical Laughs: Love!  
EDDIE CANTOR  
"Strike Me Pink"  
Ethel Merman-Sally Eilers

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Claudette Colbert  
"She Married Her Boss"  
Plus: "Chance at Heaven"

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## Injury in Rose Bowl Grid Tilt Turned Horace Heidt to Music

Favorite of Radio Lanes and Ballrooms Is Bringing His Band to Indiana Roof for Sunday Night Only.

"The Heidt of Entertainment" is no idle pun on an orchestra leader's name, but an identifying phrase that has taken on justified significance in the realm of rhythm. Horace Heidt and his Brigadiers, who are to unfold their repertoire of novelty and versatility to Indianapolis dancers at the Indiana Roof Sunday night, have captivated the radio listeners as one of the ranking sensations of 1935.

Heard several times each night on CBS and Mutual networks, Mr. Heidt has become the favorite of a large contingent of air fans with a new type of syncopation that is distinctive. His last appearance in the Hoosier capital five years ago is remembered by enthusiasts of popular music. At will Mr. Heidt presented a chorus of 15 saxophones, 15 violins or 15 clarinets.

The Rose Bowl game of 1923 gave the music world this young maestro. Mr. Heidt was one of the mainstays of the University of California grid team which opposed Washington and Jefferson in the New Year Day classic, a sophomore football hero with a Hoosier background.

At Culver Military Academy he won the heavyweight boxing championship and swimming titles, was captain of the football team and pitcher on the baseball nine and held school records in shot put and discus.

During the Rose Bowl tilt, Mr. Heidt was carried from the field with a spine injury which ended his athletic career. He then turned to music and with the aid of Mr. Thorsen and Jerry Bowne, two of his classmates who are still with him, organized a band.

Following his success on the West Coast, Mr. Heidt turned the United States, landing in New York at the Palace Theater, where he established a box office record that still stands. Next came a contract to play in the Casino at Monte Carlo. The Brigadiers appeared at the Grand Opera House and Las Ambassadors in Paris and had a dance engagement at the Kit Kat Club in London.

His two-week engagement at the Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel brought the hotel out of the doldrums and opened its doors seven nights a week. The fortnight engagement expanded into seven months and he has signed another contract at the highest figure ever paid a hotel band. The band is to be at the Indiana Roof Sunday night only.

**Actress Visits Playhouse**  
Heather Angel and Ralph Forbes are frequent visitors at the Hollywood legitimate playhouse.

**Actress Studies German Dancing**  
Frances Farmer spends her spare time studying German expressionistic dancing as an aid to poise.

**800 Musicians Enter Festival**  
State Pianists Prepare for Concert May 3.

Eight hundred pianists in 33 Indiana cities today are brushing up on their scales and learning new notes in preparation for the 125-piano festival to be held in Indianapolis Sunday, May 3.

The ranks of entries for the concert, sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota, national professional music society, were filled last week, and an emergency list is being formed of players who are to be prepared to fill any vacancies.

Four groups of 200 players each are to present the program, the first comprised of children 9 to 11 years old; the second, those of junior high school age; third, senior high school students, and fourth, the adult group.

Much of the music was written for four hands, but there are to be some eight-hand arrangements made especially for the concert by Burton Burkette. The manuscripts of these are being photocopied, and are to be distributed to the festival players.

Practice centers are to be established in Muncie, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, where group practice may be held before the final grand rehearsals in Indianapolis on the four Saturdays preceding the performance.

Proceeds of the festival are to go to the scholarship and student loan funds, and to other philanthropic enterprises among musicians conducted by the three departments of the sorority—the active and alumnae chapters and the patronesses.

**Pianos Being Built**  
The 125 grand pianos to be used are being built by the Wurlitzer Piano Co. of De Kalb, Ill. They are to be brought by truck to Indianapolis and supplied by the Wilkins Music Co.

The following are the numbers in preparation:

Group I—  
Marche Militaire, D. Major.....Schubert  
"Viennese Waltz".....Grieg  
"Rhodora".....Debussy  
"Swaying Dandelion".....Debussy  
Group II—  
"Waltz of the Powers" from the "Nutcracker Suite".....Tchaikowsky  
Ballet Music from "Romeo and Juliet".....Schubert  
8-hand arrangement by Burton Burkette.  
"Pomp and Circumstance".....Elgar

## Errol Flynn Plays, Lives Action Role

Adventures Prepare Actor for Screen Part in 'Captain Blood.'

In "Captain Blood," the pirate movie which comes to the Indiana theater Friday, is to be seen a new leading man, Errol Flynn. A close look will reveal that he wears a gold chain around his neck.

That chain was placed about his neck by a dying missionary in New Guinea as a reward for Mr. Flynn's faithful service during the last days of the old missionary. It is made of the first gold ever found in New Guinea. It reminds Mr. Flynn of the adventures he had in the South Seas. If ever a man fitted a part, Mr. Flynn should make the perfect pirate.

He was born in North Ireland 26 years ago, is tall, fairly good-looking, reckless at heart. Years in the "bush" of New Guinea, looking for gold, with only two chances to talk to a white man during that time, have made him a quiet man.

Now he is writing a book, based on the experiences of himself and a friend when they sailed a small boat from Australia to New Guinea. He has written several short stories and some verse. There is a scar on his shin bone where he was struck by a poison arrow in the New Guinea "bush."

### Boxed in Olympics

Before going gold hunting he went to the Olympic games in Amsterdam as a member of the British boxing team when he was 19. He has made two small fortunes, but lost them both. He was made when he sold his forest "spot" of gold for \$10,000 cash and \$40,000 in stock in a syndicate. The syndicate failed.

The other was made with a schooner service, operating between small islands. The schooner hit a hidden reef and there was no insurance. He afterwards owned a pearl diving business, but that went by the boards also.

And believe it or not, he is a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian, the "Mutiny on the Bounty" character.

Mr. Flynn has been close to gorillas and whales, but has never seen an Eskimo or Aimee Semple McPherson.

### Is Great Reader

Mr. Flynn reads a great deal, including editorials in newspapers. He likes old book stores but has never attended a furniture auction. He is the only actor in the film colony outside of John Barrymore who is interested in the Gobi desert.

He dislikes parades and speeches. He doesn't believe in dreams or weather forecasts. He has been thrown from a horse and he is afraid of a dentist. He would like to watch a great surgeon operate.

He plays a good game of tennis and he keeps in training continuously. He awakens easily, the result of years spent sleeping in the open jungle, and he takes his shoes off first when he gets ready for bed. He hates to hear a clock tick, but he likes the sound of wind and rain and thunder.

He dislikes to attend weddings, but he flew to his own when he married Lili Damita, French actress, a few weeks ago in Yuma, Arizona.

### Own Parties No Fun

He has no fun at his own parties, does not enjoy picnics or mountain climbing. Since going to Hollywood, he says, he has developed a special "telephone party." He has been long, many times and for long periods. He has never seen a baseball game. He speaks a little Chinese and many native dialects common in the South Seas.

The wanderlust is still strong in Mr. Flynn and he is planning many future expeditions to the far corners of the earth. Marriage and the role of "Captain Blood" may tie him indefinitely to Hollywood, but he has no intention of settling there for the rest of his natural life.

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ON STAGE  
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1,000 LAUGHS  
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LIPSON  
CAPTAIN BLOOD  
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LAST 4 DAYS!  
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ROBERT TAYLOR  
MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION  
See it from the start  
at 11:30, 2:05, 4:40,  
7:15 and 9:35

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WARREN HULL  
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COLLECTING WITH ADVENTURE!  
VICTOR  
McLAGLEN  
REDDIE  
BARTHOLOMEW  
PROFESSIONAL  
SOLDIER  
A DREAM

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NOW 2 FEATURES  
World Premiere  
"April Blossoms"  
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NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS  
WEST SIDE  
STATE 2702 W. 10th St.  
Double Feature  
Dick Powell  
"THANKS A MILLION"  
"FLORENCE D'ARCY"  
BELMONT W. Wash. & Belmont  
Double Feature  
The Marx Bros.  
"A NIGHT AT THE OPERA"  
"STARS OVER BROADWAY"  
DAISY 2540 W. Mich. St.  
Double Feature  
M. Sullivan  
"SO RED THE ROSE"  
"THE FAT-TO"  
NORTH SIDE  
RITZ Illinois at 24th  
Double Feature  
Marx Bros.  
"A NIGHT AT THE OPERA"  
News-Carlson Comedy  
UPTOWN 24th & College  
Double Feature  
Dick Powell  
"THANKS A MILLION"  
"Major Bowes' Amateur Theater of the Air"  
GARRICK 38th and Illinois  
Double Feature  
Zasu Pitts  
"MURDER MAN"  
ST. CLAIR St. Clair & Ft. Wayne  
Double Feature  
Zasu Pitts  
"THE AFFAIRS OF SUSAN"  
"RENDEZVOUS"  
REX 30th at Northwestern  
Double Feature  
Janet Gaynor  
"FARMER TAKES A WIFE"  
"REDHEADS ON PARADE"  
TALBOTT Talbot & 22nd  
Double Feature  
Dick Powell  
"SHIPMATES FOREVER"  
"RENDEZVOUS"  
Stratford 19th & College  
Double Feature  
Loretta Young  
"SPANGHANA"  
"MURDER MAN"  
MECCA Noble & Mass.  
Double Feature  
Edward Arnold  
"DIAMOND JIM"  
"HERE COMES THE BAND"  
DREAM 7th & State St.  
Double Feature  
Charles Laughton  
"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"  
Comedy—News—Short Reels  
EAST SIDE  
RIVOLI Dearborn at 10th  
Double Feature  
Margaret Sullivan  
"SO RED THE ROSE"  
"STARS OVER BROADWAY"  
TUXEDO 4020 E. New York  
Clark Gable  
"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"  
Selected Short Reels  
TACOMA 2442 E. Wash. St.  
Double Feature  
Charles Laughton  
"LIVE MY LIFE"  
"HIS NIGHT OUT"  
IRVING Charles Laughton  
Double Feature  
Gable  
"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"  
Selected Short Features  
EMERSON 10th & 10th St.  
Double Feature  
Marx Bros.  
"A NIGHT AT THE OPERA"  
"IN PERSON"  
HAMILTON 2116 E. 10th St.  
Double Feature  
Marx Bros.  
"A NIGHT AT THE OPERA"  
"ANNIE OAKLEY"  
PARKER 2036 E. 10th St.  
Double Feature  
William Powell  
"CAPTAIN BLOOD"  
"CAPTAIN BLOOD"  
STRAND 1332 E. Wash. St.  
Clark Gable—Franchot Tone  
"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"  
Major Bowes' Amateur Theater of the Air  
ROXY 2721 E. Wash. St.  
Double Feature  
W. Powell  
"STEAMBOAT ROUND THE BEND"  
"POWDER SMOKE RANG"  
Paramount 111 E. Wash. St.  
Double Feature  
Jack Oakie  
"THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936"  
"WE'RE IN THE MONEY"  
FOUNTAIN SQUARE Double Feature  
Jack Oakie  
"THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936"  
"BARBARY COAST"  
SANDERS Double Feature  
Douglas Fairbanks  
"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"  
"WE'RE IN THE MONEY"  
AVALON Double Feature  
Douglas Fairbanks  
"HERE COMES THE BAND"  
"HERE COMES THE BAND"  
ORIENTAL 111 E. Washington St.  
Double Feature  
Wallace Berry  
"O'SHAUGHNESSY"  
"THE RAINMAKERS"  
GARFIELD 2303 Shelby St.  
Double Feature  
William Powell  
"RENDEZVOUS"  
"HERE COMES COOKIE"